(b) if so, when;

(c) whether Government have caused any probe into the bottlenecks in the release of funds and implementation of projects under the scheme;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) whether there has been marked delay in the release of funds and implementation of projects under the Scheme, especially in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINSITRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The release of funds under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the year 1996-97 started in July, 1996. As on date, the funds in respect of the sitting Members of Parliament of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (except 12 Rajya Sabha Members and one nominated Lok Sabha Member in respect of whom the district options are awaited), have been released.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, quidelines for MPLADS funds have been revised very recently.

(e) If is too early to assess the impact of the revised guidelines.

Central assistance to Rajasthan and Orissa for employment opportunities

2012. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Central assistance provided to Rajasthan and Orissa so far during 1996-97, as compared to 1995-96, under the programmes for augmenting employment opportunities and eradication of poverty, State-wise; and

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard, State-wise, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The total amount of Central Assistance provided for the Annual Plan 1996-97 of Rajasthan was Rs. 581.43 crore, including Rs. 87.63 crore for Basic Minimum Services (BMS) and Rs. 470.75 crore for Annual Plan 1995-96. The total amount of Central Assistance provided for the Annual Plan 1996-97 of Orissa was Rs. 520.10 crore including Rs. 79.26 crore for BMS and Rs. 4.50 crore for slum development, as compared to Rs. 413.26 crore for Annual Plan 1995-96. The Central Assistance to the State Plans is in the form of bloc grants and loans and are utilised by the States for various development programmes including programmes for augmenting employment opportunities and eradication of poverty.

Schemes for weaker sections in Karnataka

2013. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes being run for the weaker sections in Karnataka;

(b) what is the scheme-wise progress made so far; and

(c) the details of allocation of funds, scheme-wise, during 1995-96, and in 1996-97 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) A Statement (Part I, II & III) is laid on the Table of the House.